

# 'Extra' SpEcial DELivEry

## Travis aerial porters help move emergency response personnel, cargo

By SSgt. Mark Diamond  
60th AMW Public Affairs

Almost immediately following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., requests began pouring in for Travis support in transporting everything from blood supplies and humanitarian assistance supplies to urban search and rescue teams, U.S. Army equipment and more.

When equipment and personnel began leaving Travis, the folks assigned to the 60th Aerial Port Squadron kicked into high gear.

According to 60th APS Superintendent CMSgt. John Buchanan, since before the first aircraft departed Travis, aerial porters here have not slowed down.

The first flight from Travis heading toward the East Coast occurred as soon as noon on the day of the attacks. A Travis C-5 was dispatched to pickup and deliver three Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

Later the same day, Travis launched three additional aircraft: one to deliver a Sacramento-based Office of Emergency Services task force and its equipment; another to deliver three Travis critical care air transport teams; and a third aircraft was launched to pick up and deliver portable hospital equipment from Texas.

From Sept. 11 through Saturday, 60th APS personnel handled more than 53 tons of cargo and numerous emergency responders.

The squadron also learned that its efforts within the past six months to train local OES search and rescue mobilization teams paid big dividends this past week. According to SSgt. Willie Thompson and SSgt. Aaron Esgana, both assigned to the 60th APS special handling section, Travis aerial porters trained the Sacramento, Menlo Park and Oakland search and rescue mobilization teams to properly prepare pallets and inspect cargo prior to shipment on Air Force aircraft.

Thompson said when local SAR teams deployed from Travis following the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, their equipment was fairly disorganized in regards to Air Force air worthiness standards.

This time around, Thompson said the OES teams were near perfect. Their pallets were properly loaded, marked and secured. He said from the inspection area to the aircraft, it took only one hour to load the SAR cargo.

"The SAR teams were eager to learn our procedures, and we were eager to teach them," Thompson said. "That training really paid off this week."

But equipment and emergency services personnel weren't the only "cargo" the 60th APS helped deliver to the East Coast.

According to the chief, his squadron also helped return a Marine Corps lance corporal from Korea to New York to search for his father, one of the missing New York firefighters.

Buchanan said he and his folks have dealt with heart-wrenching stories like this every day since the terrorist attacks. But he says there may be a small silver lining.

"Many people are saying this is a sad time in the history of America, but it's also the proudest hour for some of our young troops in the military. They've done an admirable job in responding to this emergency," said the chief. "And the lessons learned from these attacks will be carried down to their children and their children's children."

He said this isn't the first time Travis aerial porters have responded in a time of tragedy, and it won't be the last. And he said his folks won't rest until the job is done.

"There's no better mission in life than taking care of our fellow Americans and seeing the results of your actions first hand," added the chief. "We're prepared to do whatever the mission calls for. It's sometimes a sad mission, but it's an important mission."

In addition to supporting search and recovery efforts in New York and Washington, D.C., in the past week the 60th APS has supported its normal, day-to-day taskings, including channel missions to military air bases in the Pacific. Between Sept. 11 and Sunday, APS personnel handled 22 Pacific channel missions, amounting to more than 538 tons of cargo and more than 300 passengers.

Buchanan said it's normal for his squadron to handle 40,000 pieces of cargo and 10,000 to 11,000 passengers each month.



SSgt. Mark Diamond/60th AMW Public Affairs

SSgts. Willie Thompson and Aaron Esgana, 60th APS special handling section, inspect the battery compartment on a search and rescue vehicle bound for New York.

In addition to the channel missions and support of the search and recovery efforts on the East Coast, the chief said Travis' APS personnel are also assisting base security forces with vehicle screenings at the front gate.

He said following the terrorist attacks last week, aerial porters here have been working 12-hour shifts — 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Although much of the spotlight has been placed on the 60th APS' special handling section (preparing the cargo), passenger terminal operations (processing emergency services personnel) and ramp services (loading the cargo onto the aircraft), Thompson said it takes every section within the aerial port squadron — including load planners, fleet management, information control and cargo processing — to get the job done.



1st Lt. Kim Garbett/60th AMW Public Affairs

Above and Below: Since the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., personnel assigned to the 60th Aerial Port Squadron have helped move thousands of pounds of equipment and hundreds of emergency responders — both military and civilian — to the East Coast.



### View Point

## Travis actions will reach to throughout America and beyond

By SSgt. Mark Diamond  
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Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., public affairs personnel escorted a half dozen or so local news media just off the flight line during their coverage of a search and rescue team's departure from Travis. The Sacramento-based Office of Emergency Services SAR team was on its way to New York in support of the search and rescue effort there.

The media's interest was focused on the SAR team; my focus was on how quickly Travis aerial porters loaded the equipment from several tractor-trailers into the belly of a waiting C-5 Galaxy.

As far as our public affairs task, the escort was a fairly simple: make arrangements for the media repre-

sentatives to enter the base, pick them up at the front gate, check their credentials, escort them to where the action was, let them get their stories and then escort them off base.

On the surface, it was similar to the dozen or so other media escorts I'd accomplished during the past few months. However, afterwards, while walking through the 60th Aerial Port Squadron facility, I overheard a briefing that astounded me.

A large group of APS folks formed a circle near the center of the facility, and an officer stood near the center of the circle addressing the aerial porters. I don't remember the officer's exact words, but I got the gist of what he was telling his troops.

He told them to remember one important thing in the next few weeks. He said just about everything they do — every piece of

### Straight Talk

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equipment they touch, every pallet they load onto an aircraft — will be making its way to the East Coast in support of the search and rescue and recovery effort. He said it was important for each one of them to realize the importance of what they are doing and make a sustained

effort to give 100 percent.

I felt a great sense of pride when I heard this officer's motivating speech. I felt much the same as I feel when I see pictures of the U.S. flag placed atop the rubble of the former World Trade Center, or when I'm listening to the radio and hear Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" requested again and again.

Although many Travis personnel have played and will continue to play an important role in our humanitarian and military response, I think everyone on Travis can benefit from the words this anonymous APS officer passed along to his troops.

Everyone at Travis should realize the importance of the role they play here and how it will affect not only them or their unit or the base, but that it will reach beyond America and the world watching.



Countries impacted  
Countries not impacted

Ecuador: 4 dead, 30 missing  
Egypt: 1 missing  
El Salvador: 1 dead, 70 missing  
France: less than 10 missing  
Germany: 1 dead, 205 missing  
Ghana: 1 dead  
Greece: 20 missing  
Guatemala: 6 missing  
Honduras: 1 dead, 6 missing  
India: 250 missing  
Indonesia: 1 dead  
Iran: 5 missing  
Ireland: 4 dead, 30-40 missing  
Israel: 20 dead, 113 missing  
Italy: 57 dead, 29 injured  
Jamaica: 1 dead, 6 missing  
Japan: 3 dead, 20 missing  
Jordan: 2 missing  
Lebanon: 3 missing  
Mexico: 17 missing  
Morocco: 8 missing  
The Netherlands: 3 dead, 400 missing  
New Zealand: 1 dead  
Pakistan: 200 missing  
Panama: 3 missing  
Paraguay: 1 dead  
Peru: 2 dead, 1 missing  
Poland: 30 missing  
Portugal: 8 dead, 60 missing  
Russia: 96 missing  
Slovakia: 10 missing  
South Korea: 12 killed, 18 missing  
Sri Lanka: 1 dead  
St. Lucia: 1 missing  
Switzerland: 150 missing  
Taiwan: 7 missing  
Trinidad & Tobago: 4 missing  
Turkey: 1 missing  
Ukraine: 1 dead  
UK: 100 dead, possibly 200-300 missing  
Venezuela: 3 missing  
Yemen: 8 missing

SOURCE: State Department task force

## Terrorist attacks reach 'round the world

The following countries were impacted by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Antigua & Barbuda: 3 missing  
Argentina: 5 missing  
Australia: 3 dead, 52 missing

Austria: 40-60 missing  
Bahamas: 1 missing  
Bangladesh: 5 dead, 50 missing  
Barbados: 3 missing  
Belgium: 4 missing  
Belarus: 1 to 3 missing  
Belize: 4 missing  
Brazil: 28 missing

Canada: 150 missing  
Chile: 1 missing  
China: 4 dead  
Colombia: 8 dead, 200 missing  
Costa Rica: 1 dead  
Czech Republic: 10 missing  
Denmark: 1 missing  
Dominican Republic: 25 missing

### Donations Accepted

For those wishing to donate money to non-profit organizations that are helping out in this time of crisis, the following funds have been established to accept donations:

**New York Firefighter Disaster Relief fund:**  
(253) 274-0432

**The American Red Cross:**  
(800) HELP NOW

**The Salvation Army:**  
(800) 725-2769

**The United Way:**  
(800) 710-8002

### Travis response timeline ... Sept. 11

**8:48 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)** — American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into the north tower of World Trade Center in New York.

**8:15 a.m. (Pacific Standard Time)** — Travis begins implementing its highest security posture.



**9:38 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)** — American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

**Noon** — A Travis C-5 departs to pick up three Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters in Arizona to transport them to support relief efforts on the East Coast.

**6:30 p.m.** — Travis launches an Air Force Reserve C-5 based out of Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., heading to New York to transport a Sacramento-based Office of Emergency Services task force and their equipment. The OES has search and rescue dogs and other capabilities to augment the Federal Emergency Management Agency rescue/recovery efforts.

**7 p.m.** — A C-9 based out of Scott AFB, Ill., departs from Travis to the East Coast with three critical care air transport teams from Travis' David Grant Medical Center. CCATs provide intensive care capability during air transport, essentially transforming cargo aircraft into an air ambulance.

**8 p.m.** — A Travis C-5 deploys to pick up portable hospital equipment from Texas to transport to the East Coast.

### Sept. 12

**1 p.m.** — Travis somewhat relaxes security posture to allow additional authorized personnel and more essential deliveries on base, but remains at a heightened state of alert.



**6 p.m.** — A Travis C-5 departs to pick up urban search and rescue personnel, vehicles and equipment in Colorado destined to assist humanitarian relief efforts in New York.

**11:30 a.m.** — Travis launches a C-141 aircraft from McChord AFB, Wash., carrying computer equipment to Maryland to assist with ongoing humanitarian relief efforts.

**11:55 a.m.** — The base's main gate is closed for approximately 1½ hours when a military bomb dog alerts on a truck delivering frozen food to the base commissary. Responders establish a security cordon, which results in the evacuation of several facilities, including Travis Elementary. The main gate reopens and students go back to school after close inspection of the vehicle determines that the alert was a false alarm.

**Noon** — Members of a search and rescue team based out of Menlo Park, Calif., arrive as part of an exercise demonstrating their ability to transport personnel and equipment to Travis if called upon to deploy. The team anticipates it may be activated eventually to relieve other SAR teams responding to the Sept. 11 attacks.



**3 p.m.** — The base announces that the change of command for the 60th Air Mobility Wing, originally scheduled for Sept. 12, has been rescheduled for Sept. 21. Brig. Gen. (select) David R. Lefforge will assume command of the wing from Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Kane.

**10 a.m.** — Thirty-four Air Force reservists from the 349th Air Mobility Wing depart on a Travis KC-10 bound for Dover AFB, Del. Thirty-two of the reservists are mortuary affairs specialists who have volunteered to assist in identifying and processing remains in the wake of the terrorists attack on the Pentagon. A chaplain and chaplain assistant have also volunteered to make the trip to provide comfort and counseling for the team. They are joined by 12 reservists from Beale AFB, Calif., and another 14 reservists from McChord AFB, Wash.

**11 a.m. and 1 p.m.** — Travis is once again called upon to deploy members of Menlo Park's Search and Rescue team. The base launches a C-141 and a C-5 with 63 SAR team members and more than 48,000 pounds of equipment. The team was transported to McGuire AFB, N.J., in support of the continuing search and rescue efforts in New York.